

[G. A. Gregory]

S - 241 - SaL DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln

DATE November 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant G. A. Gregory, Crete, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview November 18.
3. Place of interview Crete, Nebraska
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Ed Granthem, 881 W. 26th, Lincoln, Nebr.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Edward Granthem

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Eight room house at Crete. Lives with daughter. Located on the south side of the [?] campus. C15-2/27/41-Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln

Library of Congress

DATE November 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT G. A. Gregory, Crete, Nebraska.

1. Ancestry English-Scotch-Irish
2. Place and date of birth 1851, Michigan.
3. Family Lives alone—has housekeeper
4. Places lived in, with dates Michigan, 1851
5. Education, with dates Graduate of Doane College
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

School-teacher, farmer. State Supt. of schools

7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities

Congregational

9. Description of informant White-haired, stooped, mustache, blue-eyed, using ear-phones.

10. Other points gained in interview

Mr. Gregory has been in educational work in Nebraska for a great number of years.>

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

I came from Middleville, Michigan, 25 miles southeast of Grand Rapids in March, 1874.

Library of Congress

I was twenty-four at the time I came to Crete, Nebraska.

I soon after went to Harvard, Nebraska, where I had eighty acres of land but worked for a farmer during that summer. I farmed the next year after having taught school just north of [?], Nebraska. The next summer I worked my farm then sold my machinery and gave land back to the railroad company and then taught the following year in the same district. I did all of my school teaching at this point led me to believe that I should begin a college education, so in fall of 1876 I entered Doane academy at Crete, Nebraska. At that time there was a college class of only fifty students. This was in 1876. There was one small building, a frame two-story building. Professor Perry was president at that time. There are at present 250 students at Doane college and are eleven buildings on the campus.

After graduating in 1882 I was called to Gates College, near Religh, Nebraska. Gates College was uncongregational college. After graduating a few classes in the nineties, it changed into an academy and it closed about 1905.

In 1900 to 1905 I spent five years in Medford, Oregon in educational work. In 1905 was called back to Crete as superintendent of public schools. I was state inspector of [Moral?] training from 1910 to 1916 when I was called back here to Crete as superintendent.

2

This is a song sung at Christmas times in [?]. Mrs. Gregory sang this song.

"Baby's First Christmas" Hang up the baby's stocking Be sure you don't forget The dear little dimpled darling As ne'er seen Christmas yet. (not complete)

Religious song (Catholic) Twas' whispered one morning in heaven How the little white Angel may, Sit ever beside the portal sorrowing all the day. Now she spoke to the [?] warden He of the Golden [?]. Oh Angel, sweet Angel, I pray thee Leave the heavenly gates ajar.

Library of Congress

Chorus Oh, Angel, sweet Angel, I pray thee Let the Golden Gates ajar. Oh Angel, sweet Angel, I pray thee Leave the heavenly gates ajar.

The old time spelling school that occurred were a source of pleasure and proved educational. In the days from 1850 for the following half century one of the interesting, social and educational items, was the district spelling school. Often, contests in spelling were held between two districts. Each school, after the challenge had been accepted would give some time to especial drill with the hope of winning. Most of these contests were held in the winter term of school.

We used to combine spelling schools with singing schools and at times, debating societies, exercises in readings and declaration and so forth. These were really the only important events the people had in the country in those days. The country dances were very popular in those days also.

3

The dances were held in the winter [?] in the homes and farms. A large enough home as [?] hold the dances. The dances were also held at schools and the seats were taken up before the dance.

Not only the pupils in the schools, but many parents and other young people would be welcome at the spelling schools or bees. The procedure in detail would be something as follows:

When there was sleighing the wagon box would be on the sleigh and partly filled with straw which was then covered with blankets and then loaded with the people [?] to the spelling bees. The group was covered with buffalo robes and was singing and yelling going to the place of contest. After warming up and visiting, two sets of contestants were lined up and the spelling began. When a person missed a word he was eliminated from the contest and sat down. When all of one side were eliminated the other side was declared

Library of Congress

winner of sides. Then, the other side continued until only one was left who would be the champion. Sometimes prizes were given. [?] Nicknames of some of my friends were "Doc," "Piety," "Friday," "Red," "Keynote," and "Cheyenne." People that came from Nebraska were called "Grasshoppers."

The name, "Blizzard" was created in the west of United States because of the terrible winter storms.

I brought the first Chinese Elm tree to Nebraska. I brought it to Crete, Nebraska from the experimental stations, Arlington, Virginia. Also I brought the first Pin-oak tree to Crete. Planted a memorial park in Doane College too. I brought also, from Arlington, a [?] tree. These trees were mainly the source of [?] beds. All but a few were covered over by the special coverage.

GATES COLLEGE SONG - - - * * * - - - - - * - - -

(Neligh, Nebr. college now dead.) We revel in song, to Gates we belong, Where soft breezes blew o'er prairies afar. A tribute we bring, our college we sing To the tune of our light guitar.

Chorus

— Ching-a-ling-a-ling! Ching-a-ling-a-ling! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! These are the words that we board from afar; Ching-a-ling-a-ling! Ching-a-ling-a-ling! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! To the tune of our light guitar, Ha! Ha!

— In sunshine or storm, our tank we perform, With hearts full of hope which nothing can [?]. When twilights are long, we echo our song [?] the tune of our light guitar.

— [?] number, the few, are loyal and true, Come we from near, or come we from far, Our hearts bound with pride, as clear, far and wide, Swells the tune of our light guitar.

Library of Congress

Tender Bonds

— Tender bonds can ne'er be broken, [?], fair [?], in thee; Far surpassing wealth
unspoken, Sealed in friendship free. "[?], asque ad aras'. Deep graven in each heart,
Souls in [?] union blended, Never more shall part. Soon to [?] on life's broad ocean, Now
with [?] high, Pledge to Gates our [?] devotion, Are the last good-bye. Herbert H. White

NOTE:

Herbert H. White; for years, professor of Greek and Latin at Gates College, Nebraska.